

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07533 060913Z

21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CU-05 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /158 W

----- 108240

R 060731Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6142

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7533

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOCI, PK

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECISION ON AHMADIYAS BY SEPTEMBER

REF: ISLAMABAD 6907 (NOTAL)

1. PROMISING AN EARLY CONCLUSION TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) CONSIDERATION OF SECTARIAN AHMADIYAN QUESTION (REFTEL), PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN QUETTA ON AUGUST 4 THAT THE "GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT THIS ISSUE TO LINGER ON". AFTER CONSULTATION WITH LAW MINISTER, BHUTTO ANNOUNCED THAT DEBATE MUST BE CONCLUDED BY SEPTEMBER 7.

2. THE ASSEMBLY, ADJOURNED SINCE JULY 27, HAS BEEN MEETING AS COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE IN SECRET SESSION AND HAS JUST COMPLETED FIRST ROUND OF TESTIMONY FROM AHMADIYAN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS. NEXT WILL COME CROSS-QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES AND FINALLY NATIONAL
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 07533 060913Z

ASSEMBLY DEBATE. ALSO THIS MONTH SHOULD SEE JUDICIAL

TRIBUNAL REPORT ON RABWAH INCIDENT AND GOPUNJAB'S
RECOMMENDATIONS TO CENTER.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN WIDESPREAD AND DEEP-SEATED PUBLIC
ANTIPATHY FOR THIS HETERODOX SECT GOP MUST STRIKE A
COMPROMISE WHICH GIVES CONVINCING APPEARANCE OF FORWARD
PROGRESS AND CONCERN WHILE DELAYING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
VOTE TO PERMIT SECTARIAN PASSIONS TO COOL. CURRENTLY,
ISSUE IS DAMPENED DOWN BY LACK OF MEDIA COVERAGE AS
COMMITTEE DELIBERATES IN SECRET AND PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
AND RALLIES HAVE BEEN OUTLAWED IN MANY AREAS.

4. EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY PREDICTED THAT
AHMADIYAS ARE CERTAIN TO BE ADJUDGED "OUTSIDE THE PALE
OF ISLAM" BY NA ON GROUNDS THEY DO NOT RECOGNIZE
"FINALITY OF PROPHETHOOD OF MOHAMMED". GOP, WE UNDER-
STAND, WOULD LIKE TO LIMIT NA ACTION TO SUCH A
DECLARATION, MINIMIZE DAMAGE OF A WITCH HUNT OF
HIGHLY VISIBLE AHMADIYAS IN UPPER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT,
AND AVOID IMPOSITION OF QUOTA SYSTEM IN GOVERNMENT
SERVICE.LUPPI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AHMADIYA, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ISLAMA07533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740214-0081
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740871/aaaacjfm.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ISLAMABAD 6907 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECISION ON AHMADIYAS BY SEPTEMBER
TAGS: PINT, SOCI, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005